

Camping Code

Quick Reference

Overview

In December 2022, the Bend City Council adopted a **Camping Code**, which regulates camping on City-owned property and City rights-of-way, like public streets, sidewalks and landscape strips in Bend.

Prior to this adoption, the **Bend Municipal Code** did not regulate camping on public property or rights-of-way or using vehicles for shelter or sleeping. The intent of the Camping Code is to manage the right-of-way for the public, to maintain rights-of-way for their intended use, and to support people in crisis on Bend's streets.

The code addresses "time, place and manner" regulations that explain when, where and how camping is allowed, as well as outline the plan for enforcement or compliance. Please note, the code addresses camping in tents and other portable shelters, as well as camping and sleeping in vehicles.

Regulations for camping in tents and other portable shelters

Time: When can people camp?

- Camping may only occur for 24 hours in any one location. Once a camp has been in place for 24 hours, it may only be removed after posting a notice of removal at least 72 hours in advance of any removal, subject to some limited exceptions.
- After 24 hours, a camp must be moved at least one block, or 600 feet, and not return to the prior location for 72 hours.
- After removal, the City may close an area to camping for up to 14 days for environmental restoration or remediation of contamination by hazardous materials or other dangers to human life or safety.

Place: Where can people camp or not camp?

Camping is prohibited:

- Within 1,000 feet from any permitted shelter use, including Safe Parking locations, Outdoor Shelters and the Navigation Center.

- On City rights-of-way where the City Manager determined it's unsafe due to construction or other reason.
- In Waterway Overlay or Residential Zones.
- In City buildings, parking garages, parking lots, or on City property where property is used for utility facilities.

View this map to see the areas where camping is prohibited; other areas are subject to the time and manner restrictions.

Manner: How can people camp?

- No more than three, 12' x 12' camping spaces may be set up per block.
- Camping spaces may be grouped together but must be 150 feet from any other group of camps (between clusters of camps at block corners, across streets, etc., to prevent larger encampment areas from developing).
- If a camp becomes established, and is noticed and removed by the City, the camp cannot return to same location, or within a 100-foot radius, for up to 14 days.
- Camps may not accumulate garbage, debris, or hazardous materials in or around the camping space.
- Open flames and burning are prohibited in City rights-of-way and on City property. Heating and cooking devices must comply with **Fire Department rules**, which permit portable propane, gas, electric, or battery-operated heaters, radiant heaters, and barbecue grills or camping stoves and similar devices.
- Wastewater (sewage, or water used for bathing or cooking) dumping is prohibited in and around camps.
- Unauthorized connections from camps to electrical or other utilities are prohibited.
- Camp materials may not be attached to fire hydrants or other utilities, fences, trees, vehicles or buildings.
- Camps must not include construction of structures, other than tents or similar portable shelters.
- Personal property other than what is related to personal use, camping, sleeping, or keeping warm and dry is prohibited, subject to the spatial footprint of 12 x 12 feet, or 144 square feet. For instance, bicycles and associated parts used for daily needs are allowed, but storage of these items outside of the 12 x 12 area is not allowed. Other property that may not qualify for personal use include vehicle tires, gasoline, generators, lumber or household furniture, unless related to camping, sleeping or keeping warm and dry.
- Digging, excavating, or altering the ground in or around camps is prohibited.
- Camps may not use emergency power generators that result in a violation of the City's noise ordinance.
- Animals residing in or visiting camps must be leashed or crated at all times.

What happens if time, place and/or manner are violated?

Regarding camping in tents or other portable shelters, if time, place and/or manner are violated:



- Citations will be issued only when other means of achieving compliance have been unsuccessful or are not practicable for the individual situation.
- People camping in violation of the code will first be referred to services, told what the violation is, and given an opportunity to fix the violation before a citation or notice of removal is issued, except in cases of emergencies or criminal activity.
- Violations may result in removal or City clean-up of a camp. Removal or clean-up would be prioritized based on factors such as risks and negative impacts to public safety. 72-hour notice would be provided before removal, except in case of emergency or criminal activity when no notice is required.

How is personal property handled?

- Personal property recovered from a removed camp will be stored for 30 days in a City storage location.
- Personal property that appears to have a value over \$1,000 will be provided to law enforcement for safe keeping and shall be made available to people claiming ownership at reasonable times.
- The City will not store items that are perishable, that have no apparent use, that are not identifiable as belonging to an individual, are in an unsanitary condition, or are considered garbage, debris, or appear to be abandoned.

Regulations for Vehicle Camping

Time and Place: Where and when can people camp or sleep in vehicles?

- **Chapter 6.20 of the Bend Municipal Code** governs where and for how long individuals may legally park vehicles on public rights-of-way within the City of Bend. Those standards are applicable to all individuals, including those who use vehicles for shelter and/or sleeping on public rights-of-way in the City.
- People cannot sleep or use a vehicle for shelter within 500 feet of permitted shelters, including Safe Parking locations and Outdoor Shelters.
- People cannot sleep or use a vehicle for shelter within 1,000 feet of the Lighthouse Navigation Center on Northeast Second Street.

Manner: How can people use vehicles for sleeping or camping?

People who are using vehicles for sleeping or camping must follow the same manner rules as those camping in tents or other portable shelters noted above, except for distance and spacing rules, which do not apply to vehicles.

Additionally:

- Vehicles must be legally parked.
- Tents or structures can't be added to a vehicle being used for sleeping or camping, other than tents designed to be operated attached to a vehicle.



What happens if time, place and/or manner are violated?

Regarding vehicle camping, if time, place and/or manner are violated:

- Citations for violations of manner restrictions will be issued only when other means of achieving compliance have been unsuccessful or are not practicable for the individual situation.
- Before a citation is given, people camping in vehicles in violation of the rules of the code will first be referred to services, told what the perceived violation is, and given an opportunity to fix the violation, except in cases of emergency or criminal activity.
- Violations may result in City clean-up of the area around a vehicle used for camping or sleeping, or a citation for violation. Removal or clean-up would be prioritized based on factors such as risks and negative impacts to public safety. Personal property removal and storage will follow the same rules as personal property removed from a campsite, as described above.
- Areas with established parking districts (i.e. Downtown Parking District, Old Bend Parking District) will follow the already established enforcement process as defined for the district.
- City will follow all required process and notice prior to towing and impounding a vehicle, including providing a notice that the vehicle is parked in violation of City code, and providing at least three days for the vehicle to be moved before it is identified for towing and impoundment. Impoundment will generally not occur if a vehicle is being used as a person's only shelter.

Learn more about the Camping Code at [bendoregon.gov/camping-code](https://www.bendoregon.gov/camping-code).



Accommodation Information for People with Disabilities

To obtain this information in an alternate format such as Braille, large print, electronic formats, etc. please contact Makayla Oliver at moliver@bendoregon.gov or 541-323-8571 Relay Users Dial 7-1-1.

